THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) As per the State of Forest Report 1891 the percentage of forest cover in Andhra Pradesh is *17-2%* and the percentage of recorded forest area is 23.3 per cent. The National Forest Policy 1888 stipulates that a minimum of one third of the country's land area should be under forest or tree cover.

(d) Andhra Pradesh is implement a number of afforestation programmes in order to protect and increase its forest cover. These include schemes for social and farm forestry, refore-station of degraded forests, forest con servation and development. Shelter belt plantation, Raising of Timber plantations, Mechanised plantations. Fuel and Fodder Project etc. A comprehensive forestry project is being taken up with World Bank Assistance. This Project will aid in conserving and enlarging the efforts taken up with ODA assistance between 1995—90 and continued under the State Plan Scheme of afforestation during 1990-03. The Project cost is Rs. 354 crore and an area of 3.03 lakh hac. is proposed to be covered during the project period 1994-90.

Mixing lead with petrol"

2787. SHRI SOM PAL:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the developed countries have stop ped mixing lead with petrol as it is a big pollutant and health hazard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India still has a high lead content in : petrol;

(c) if so, what is the present lead content in India how does it compare with the developed countries like U.S.A., U.K. Germany and Japan;

(d) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c; The average lead con tent in petrol in our country is 0.18 grams per litre. Countries like Germany and Japan are using unleaded petrol, whereas countries like U.S.A. and U.K. are using both unleaded and leaded (with a lead content of 0.15 grams per litre or less) petrol.

(d) Lead is added to increase the octane value of petrol which allows the engines to operate smoothly. The Government has drawn up a plan to reduce the lead content in petrol in a phased manner, in the various oil refineries currently producing petrol with high lead content.

विषैले जल का प्रयोग

2788. श्री शारदा महन्ती : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 27 फरवरी, 1994 के "इंडियन एक्सप्रैस में "आर्सेनिक-टिन्ज्ड वाटर ईटस इनटू वैस्ट बेंगाल्स वाइटल्स" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस अध्ययन पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है जिस पर उक्त रिपोर्ट आधारित है ; और

(ग) सरकार पीने और सिचाई के लिए उपयोग में लाए जाने वाले जल स्रोतों और भूमिगत जल के विषाक्त प्रदूषण के लिए जिम्मेदार इन कारणों को दूर करने के लिए क्या-क्या कदम उठा रही है ?